

LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE: **September 9, 2003**

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 14

CONSENT: **X**

REGULAR:

CLOSED SESSION:

(Confidential)

ACTION: **X**

INFORMATION:

ITEM TITLE: **Route 501 Coalition Dues**

RECOMMENDATION: To approve paying the full dues for FY 2003 of \$3,500 and dues for FY 2004 in the amount of \$2,500.

SUMMARY: The 501 Coalition was started in 1996 by businesses realizing the need for roadway improvements along Route 501. Several years later, local governments joined the effort and developed a priority plan for improvements along the entire 501 transportation corridor (from North Carolina Line to I-81) and lobbied this plan to state legislators and the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB). The Coalition also mails out each year approximately 14,000 newsletters to legislators, CTB members, local businesses, and residents.

The yearly dues for cities were set at \$3,500. These dues were not included in the City's FY 2003 fiscal budget and as a consequence City staff brought it before PDC. On September 3, 2002 it was the recommendation of the PDC to pay reduced dues of \$500 instead of the full dues payment of \$3,500. This information was brought back to the 501 Coalition at which time the members asked that the City of Lynchburg seriously reconsider this due change. The Coalition's concerns were that if they were to lower it for one municipality, they would have to lower it for all. If this occurred, there would not be enough funds to continue some of the basic functions of the Coalition such as the web site and the yearly pamphlets to the legislators.

The Coalition has reassessed their dues structure and changed the dues to \$2,500 in FY 2004. We are the only municipality that has not paid for FY 2003. See Mr. Puckett's letter (attached) on how the dues are structured. The members of this Coalition include: Halifax, Amherst, Campbell and Bedford Counties, the Towns of Brookneal and South Boston, and the Cities of Lynchburg and Buena Vista.

PRIOR ACTION(S):

September 3, 2002 -The PDC recommended that instead of paying the full \$3,500 to the Coalition, a recommendation was made to only pay \$500.

September 2, 2003 – PDC recommended approval of \$3500 for FY 2003 and \$2500 for FY2004.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$6000 from the General Fund Reserve for Contingencies

CONTACT(S):

Gerry Harter 847-1360, ext. 273

Lee Newland 847-1360

Bruce McNabb 847-1362

ATTACHMENT(S):

Letter from J.D. Puckett, Campbell County Supervisor and Chairman, 501 Regional Coalition

The 501 Coalition Web Site is: www.route501.org.

REVIEWED BY: lkp

Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED That \$6,000 is appropriated to the General Fund, Public Works, Engineering, from the General Fund Reserve for Contingencies, to pay FY 2003 and FY 2004 dues for the City's membership in the U.S. 501 Regional Coalition.

Introduced:

Adopted:

Certified:

Clerk of Council

151L

U.S. 501 Regional Coalition

PO Box 100

Rustburg, VA 24588

(434) 592-9595

June 19, 2003

L. Kimbal Payne
Lynchburg City Manager
P.O. Box 60
Lynchburg, VA 24505

Dear Mr. Payne:

The 501 Regional Coalition adopted a dues structure for FY 2003 and submitted invoices to all member jurisdictions, including the City of Lynchburg. For FY2003, counties and cities were assessed \$3,500.00 dues while towns, being political subdivisions of counties and having smaller populations, were assessed \$500.00 in dues.

City of Lynchburg staff requested to have their FY 2003 dues notice changed to \$500.00. The 501 Coalition cannot lower the dues structure for one locality without lowering it for all. Recognizing the fiscal constraints placed upon local governments, the 501 Coalition reduced its operating budget and lowered the FY2004 annual dues for counties and cities to \$2,500.00.

The 501 Regional Coalition respectfully requests that Lynchburg reconsider payment of its FY2003 dues and submit \$3,500.00 to remain a member in good standing of the 501 Coalition. With support from member localities, the 501 Coalition can continue its work to help make US Route 501 safer.

Sincerely,



J. D. Puckett

Chairman, 501 Regional Coalition

JDP/jmd

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